During the year'2007-08, of the Eleventh Plan the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, sanctioned Rs. 2783.03 lakh to the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 1194.75 lakh to the Government of Bihar for development and promotion of tourism.

Funds for infrastructure development for tourism promotion

2472. SHRIMATIVIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated to various States, particularly Himachal Pradesh, for the current financial year to develop infrastructure in order to promote tourism;

(b) the funds released so far to Himachal Pradesh for development of events like Himalayan Car Race, Great Himalayan Marathon and Mountain biking etc.;

(c) whether any Committee has been constituted to monitor the progress of the work in the State; and

(d) if so, what have been the findings of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development of infrastructure for promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories on the basis of project proposals received from them subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. There is no State-wise allocation of funds. During 2007-08, Rs. 645.13 crore was sanctioned for 277 projects for development and promotion of tourism in the country. Out of mis Rs. 22.86 crore was sanctioned for 12 projects in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Rs. 0.16 crore was released for events of Mountain Biking, Himalayan Adventure Race and Great Himalayan Marathon in Himachal Pradesh during 2007-08.

(c) and (d) Implementation of tourism projects is the responsibility of the State

Bottled water plants

2473. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an environment research group The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has recently conducted studies on pockets all over the country where MNC's bottled water plants are located;

(b) whether the study found that the company's use of scarce water sources call for regulation due to worsening water situation and a source of stress to the communities around especially in Kaladera in Rajasthan; and

(c) whether the Centre would ensure that licences for setting up mineral water bottle plants are restricted to water abundant areas with constant monitoring of ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per available reports, The Energy Research Institute' (TERI) conducted an independent assessment of a company's water management policies and practices.